

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mike Martin, City Manager

FROM: Michael Lafreniere
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

DATE: September 12, 2007

SUBJECT: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Update for August 2007

• CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Arts Commission

Per Council's request, the Commissioners attended the August 13 City Council meeting to hear Council discuss a proposal to have the Pomegranate Center facilitate a workshop where priority criteria for Town Square's "beacon" artwork sculpture could be defined. The workshop will be scheduled in early October.

City of Burien Summertime Music and Movies in the Park

Burien residents had the opportunity to enjoy an 8-week run of Thursday or Friday entertainment, which featured a wide range of choices of movies and live outdoor music. Our "free to the public" series kicked off in late June when an outdoor movie ("Dreamgirls") was presented inside the Community Center, which needed to be relocated due to rain.

The fun continued into July at Lake Burien School Park where we hosted the annual "Music in the Park" series featuring **Global Heat**, a jazz hip-hop group. They were accompanied by dynamic dancers who in turn were able to get some children on their feet.



The following week featured the **Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra** whose sound filled the park with original and standard big band tunes. The 6th Annual Family Fiesta featured Latin sounds by the **Coffee Band** during an evening that had intermittent rain.



Country music in Burien? You betcha! On the last Thursday in July, the cowboy boots were shined and the dancers were doing a - to **Jerry and the**. The boys were rockin' with traditional and contemporary country tunes. And in August, we kept the country feel going "Louisiana style" with **Captain Leroy and his Zydeco Locals** who fired up the squeezebox and washboard to play for the Burien crowd.

The final concert featured **Lady A and the Baby Blues Funk** Band with a mix of Motown, funk and blues music. Lead vocalist Anita was on a mission to get the crowd moving which she achieved by dancing and singing side-by-side with the audience.

The series concluded with an outdoor screening of “The Sound of Music” at Burien Community Center Park. Julie Andrews was projected on the giant inflatable screen while the audience sang along under the stars.

Our thanks to 4Culture, the Burien Auto Dealers, Town Square, Countrywide Home Loans, and The Highline Times for their support of this fabulous run of summer events, which accommodated an estimated attendance of 2,275.

• **PARKS MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT**

Adopt-a-Park

Cory Engdahl and a crew of volunteers repaired a drainage problem, grubbed and upgraded the main trail through the south end of Salmon Creek Ravine for his Eagle Scout project. The trail had become over-grown and reduced to a foot wide in many places. Due to Cory’s work the trail is now at its full width and in good condition. This nice walk can be accessed from SW 124th Street, west of Ambaum and from Shorewood Drive. Check it out.



Jacob Ambaum Park, Phase 2

In July the City received only one bid for the project and it was 41% over the architect’s estimate. The City received another extension of a grant deadline and will rebid the project for construction over the winter. Changing the construction time period should provide a more competitive and favorable bid.

Burien Community Center – Roof Repair

The north hip roof has recently been re-roofed, the December 2006 wind storm caused damage that made the repairs imminent. FEMA will reimburse the cost of the north re-roof. The south roof was replaced in December 2006 before the wind storm. These two projects are great steps forward in maintaining our aging facility.



Graffiti Removal Program

In order to keep the city's playgrounds free of gang graffiti and foul language tagging, the Department has upgraded its graffiti removal service by adding six playgrounds along with the Skatepark. The Skatepark graffiti removal program has been in place for over a year now and has proved to be very successful.

Dottie Harper Park - Wind Storm Damage Repairs

A park bench and picnic table were destroyed by fallen trees from the December 2006 windstorm in Dottie Harper Park. They were removed and replaced with our standard park furnishings. FEMA will reimburse the City for the costs of replacement.

BEFORE



AFTER



Seahurst Upland Renovation

Design for the restroom, completing the trail and renovating the park furnishings proceeded to 90% in August. The bid specification should be completed in September. The project will go to bid in the fall with construction expected to be completed by May 2008.

Seahurst North Shoreline Project

The City published an RFQ for a consultant team to plan and design the restoration of the shoreline and the renovation of the park features along the north shoreline at Seahurst Park. Consultant selection will be completed in September and a schematic (30%) design is scheduled to be complete in May 2008.

Community Recreation Center Plan

In August we continued to meet with stakeholders, the citizen Planning Committee and potential partners. Based on the PROS Plan survey, the July community meeting and extensive interviews the consultant team provided a preliminary program (the activities that will take place in the new community recreation center), several preliminary designs and preliminary cost estimates.

• RECREATION PROGRAMS (SENIORS & ADULTS)

Crazy Hats & Skit Day

On Friday, August 24, the Senior Lunch Program hosted crazy hats and a skit by June “Rosie the Clown” Yormark, who also serves as one of the City’s Arts Commissioners. There were hats made of balloons and flowers, traditional “James Cagney” hats, a strainer with lots of kitchen utensils attached, Mickey Mouse, and many more.



• RECREATION PROGRAMS (YOUTH & FAMILIES)

Summer Program Wrap-Up

A wide assortment of recreational opportunities were designed for Burien youth this summer and included:

- *Tales & Tunes with Parks & Play*: A free program co-sponsored by the Burien Library for 3 to 6 years.
- *Dance Classes*: Mommy and Me Dance, Ballet, Tap, Hula and Hip-Hop for 18 months to 15 years.
- *Tumbling*: Instructional classes for ages 12 months to 12 years olds.
- *Soccer*: Introductory skills for 2 to 12 years olds.
- *Karate*: Instructional classes for 8 years to adults.
- *Sports Camps*: Baseball, tennis, basketball, multi-sports and for 4 to 14 year olds.
- *Teen Summer Trips*: Lake Union Kayaking, Rock Climbing at Stone Gardens, Seattle Mariner’s Game, Ocean Shores Horseback Riding and Wild Waves for 7th through 9th graders.

Camp CRAZ and Summer Teen Scene (STS) Day Camp Expansion

To accommodate increased participation, both of these programs were expanded this year. Families continued to express their appreciation to the City for offering the only youth day camp in the Highline area that enables them to sign up for either 2 or 3-day-a-week options as opposed to only a full-day, 5-day-a-week program.

Camp CRAZ’s enrollment capacity was increased to 60 youth per week as compared to 40 in previous summers. The procurement of an additional (used) County van from Councilmember Dow Constantine’s office also enabled the STS camps to register 24 teens per week, as opposed to 12.

Participant Spotlight: If you asked any of the Camp CRAZ staff which camper they would remember most from this summer, they would all say Kyle Allen. Although Kyle was probably the staff’s most challenging participant, he still holds a special place in each of their hearts. Kyle, who has



high-functioning autism, liked to explore his limits here at camp.

The staff learned to understand him very well and did a superb job working with him. They made each day a great experience for Kyle and, according to his family, made a “positive impact on Kyle’s quality of life.” The Department received a very appreciative and complimentary letter on our staff leadership from his grandmother.

The success and popularity of both camps was based on the ability to recruit, train, and retain highly-qualified, outstanding staff:

This is **Jean Wylie’s** third summer with the Camp CRAZ program and the second as Camp Director. She has an Elementary Education Masters degree from the University of Washington, and lots of experience working with kids. This past school year, she taught 2nd grade in the Bellevue School District. Jean also loves bicycling and juggling (she used to want to become a clown).



Laura Ruud served as Assistant Camp CRAZ Director . She graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 2006 and been substitute teaching at elementary schools. She enjoys hiking, crafting, and is busy planning her wedding for next summer.

This is **Roxanna Gonzales’s** first summer as a Camp CRAZ Recreation Leader. She is attending the U/W this fall. Her was to make sure that every child has a memorable time at camp. Roxanne is bilingual in Spanish and English.



Ernie Alvarez is a graduate of Highline High School and has attended college in Iowa and Skagit Valley Community College to play baseball. This was his first summer working for Burien as a Camp CRAZ leader. He likes sports, movies, playing with his dog, and hanging out with his sisters. Ernie is also bilingual in Spanish and English.

Layne Hanson is a senior at Blanchet High School, where he’s a senior class cabinet member and a member of the Executive Mentor Team for Blanchet’s Freshman Welcome. He teaching kids how to play sports and stay fit. His favorite sports are soccer, cross country, and track. This is his first year working as a Camp CRAZ Attendant.



Mercedes Smith will be a senior at Highline High School. She loves to be outdoors with kids. She’s member of the Burien Teen Leadership Council and loves to volunteer in the community. She also enjoys singing, being silly, going places and trying new things. This is her first summer at Camp CRAZ.

Travis Helms has been an attendant at Camp CRAZ for two summers and just graduated from Tyee High School. He previously worked with 6th graders at Camp Waskowitz. He also works the Saturday Late Night Program during the school year with local teens. He love to play sports, especially football.





Jherica Stearns-Colon will be junior at Highline High School and served as an attendant at Camp CRAZ. She has babysat for the last 8 years, and has been an active participant in our teen programs for the past 4 years.

Alex Pierce has been with the Camp CRAZ program for 4 summers. He will be a senior at Central Washington University where he's enrolled in the History Education program. He also volunteers at our After-School Program and worked for the Saturday Late Night Program at Sylvester Middle School.



This is **Drew Dowell's** first summer working as the Assistant Director for the Summer Teen Scene camp. For the past two years, he has been touring with his band, "*On The Last Day*". He loves the City of Burien and has lived here for 21 years!

Meagan Schmieder, Summer Teen Scene Director, also serves as the City's Teen Program Assistant. She previously worked for Camp CRAZ for three years. During the school year she leads both the After-School Program and Weekend Late Night programs. Meagan has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Visual Arts from University of Washington.



• IN OTHER NEWS

The Department has been investigating needed repairs and restoration for the stump sculpture in Dottie Harper Park. Due to the graffiti on the carved figures, we have decided to have some restoration and preservation work done on the sculpture. Known as "Ghost Dancers", the work is by noted artist Richard Beyers, sculptor of the more well-known "Waiting for the Interurban" in Fremont. An art preservation specialist firm which does public art maintenance work for Sound Transit will be working on the piece.